

# Victory

magazine

Hidden With Christ Ministries  
July/August 2025



**Reaching the Goal:  
Samweli's Victory**  
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## **OUR VISION:**

To demonstrate the love of God through mercy ministries and by freely teaching God's Word around the world.

## **OUR MISSION:**

To care for orphans and abandoned children and other needy persons through practical outreaches and by producing free Bible materials and training.

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**Every Gift you send and every prayer you offer helps change lives around the world!**

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# When Childhood Dreams Come True

By Rita Langeland

Many years ago, in a land far away, two little boys met in an orphanage called Treasures of Africa Children's Home. They became fast friends and were inseparable. Though they had come from different villages in Tanzania, both had suffered similar hardships and loss before arriving at the place they would call "home" until they were young adults. No longer worried about having enough food to eat or where they would sleep, the boys suddenly felt free just to be kids. And they embarked on their "new lease on childhood" with great relish!



**Best friends - Samweli and Antoni Dec 2007**

Samweli and Antoni were both four years old when the boys met. They were on the move constantly, climbing a tree, swinging on the swings, hanging from monkey bars or kicking a soccer ball. If you were looking for one of the boys, you found the other one, right by his side.

As the two boys grew and started attending school, their different interests and skills began to emerge. Sam was a quick study and loved to read. He desperately wanted to learn English and asked for a Swahili-English Dictionary. He ended up becoming the go-to translator for the older kids in the orphanage because he learned English so quickly and was not the least bit shy about trying out his new language.

Antoni loved all things mechanical or electrical. If we found something that had been dismantled – the first thought that came to mind was "ANTONI!" Once we found the orphanage's old red pickup truck with its battery disconnected and traced it back to Antoni who was just trying to figure out how all the parts of the engine work together. But he had forgotten what connected to what and couldn't restore it to its original condition before the truck was discovered, dead as a doornail, unable to start. Another time we found an electrical wire coming out from under Antoni's bedroom door, snaking down the hallway and out a window connected to a tiny speaker he had swiped from the computer room. Antoni explained he wanted to "share" his music with the kids outside. He had "requisitioned" some electrical wire he had discovered in a closet, which belonged to an electrician we had hired to fix a problem at the orphanage. All we could say was "ANTONI!" His curiosity and ingenuity knew no boundaries.

When it came time to choose a direction of study, the two boys followed their passions. Antoni studied both auto mechanics and then electrical wiring installation, while Samweli chose to enter medical college. In July of 2025, both boys (now 22 years old) saw their young dreams becoming reality. Antoni became a licensed electrician (not a small accomplishment in Tanzania) and Samweli graduated from Machame Health Training Institute.

You can read more in-depth stories about Samweli and Antoni on pages 5-8 of this magazine. Their lives would never have followed the trajectories described here without the consistent, faithful generosity of donors to Hidden with Christ Ministries and the Treasures of Africa KIDZ Project for so many years!!!! We are grateful beyond measure for those who have believed with us that it was possible to educate and train up young leaders for Tanzania in every sphere, from among the ranks of the orphaned and abandoned. You have helped make childhood dreams come true. God bless you for praying and giving toward this important vision!



# *From Escape to Empowerment*

Esther's Journey to Hope and Purpose

by

**Faith Kaluse**

Administrator

HWC Ministries - Moshi Tanzania

***“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”***

Proverbs 31:8-9 NIV

These powerful words of scripture capture the very essence and heartbeat of Social Work. At its core, Social Work is a sacred calling to be a voice for the voiceless, to stand in the gap for the marginalized, and to fight for justice on behalf of those who are often forgotten or ignored. Just as the Bible urges us to defend the poor and needy with fairness and compassion, Social Workers step into difficult and broken places with a commitment to restore dignity, advocate for human rights, and promote healing in individuals and communities.

It is in this spirit that many have chosen the career path of Social Work, among them is Esther, a courageous young woman from the Maasai tribe. She is living proof of how education can transform a life and a whole community. Thanks to the opportunity provided by Hidden with Christ Ministries through the Treasures of Africa KIDZ Education Support Project for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Esther's life has been changed forever.

To Esther, Social Work was a dream that developed slowly. She didn't fully understand it at first, but over time, it has become something she deeply loves. Reflecting on her journey, Esther shares, "To be honest, I didn't really understand what Social Work was at the beginning. But now, not only do I understand it, but I'm also truly passionate about it. I believe this course is perfect for me." She firmly believes that God directed her path toward Social Work, a field that aligns deeply with her calling and passion.

Esther escaped the fate of a forced, early marriage, an all-too-common scenario befalling young girls in the Maasai community. She stands as a symbol of what education and opportunity can accomplish. Her training has opened her eyes to the vital role social workers play in society: supporting children with disabilities, offering counseling to individuals struggling with different issues like drug abuse or mental health, mediating family conflicts, and advocating for social justice.

Esther has learned that social work is more than a profession, it is a calling to help individuals, families, and entire communities achieve well-being and dignity. "Social Work," she explains, "is about helping people reach their social goals and promoting a better quality of life. I've realized that my own community, starting with my own family, needs this kind of support."

She sees her mission clearly: to be a voice for the voiceless and to stand with vulnerable populations, especially children and special needs groups. She is committed to preventing child abuse, raising awareness about social justice, and promoting developmental programs in and beyond her own community.

As a part of her coursework, she and fellow students, along with her college instructors, spent time in a psychiatric hospital and a prison. She said that the sights she saw were at first frightening, as she had never been exposed to people in those sad and difficult situations. But as she spent time there, her heart was touched deeply and she felt that one day, she may consider working in the realm of mental health as the need is great.

Reflecting on her journey, Esther says, "This course has made me think deeply about how far I've come and how much I've been helped by others. I realize that those who helped me were acting from a place of compassion, and now I am being prepared to do the same for others."

With heartfelt gratitude, Esther expresses her appreciation to Hidden with Christ Ministries and the supporters of the Treasures of Africa KIDZ Project: "I sincerely thank everyone who has made it possible for me to study Social Work. May God bless you abundantly and continue to use you to help us complete our studies so we can return and serve our communities."

Esther Tobiko's story is more than just a personal journey, it is a symbol of what is possible when compassion meets opportunity. Through the Treasures of Africa KIDZ Project, Esther is now being equipped to not only dream about her future, but to lead, protect, and transform the lives of others, especially the vulnerable, just like she once was.

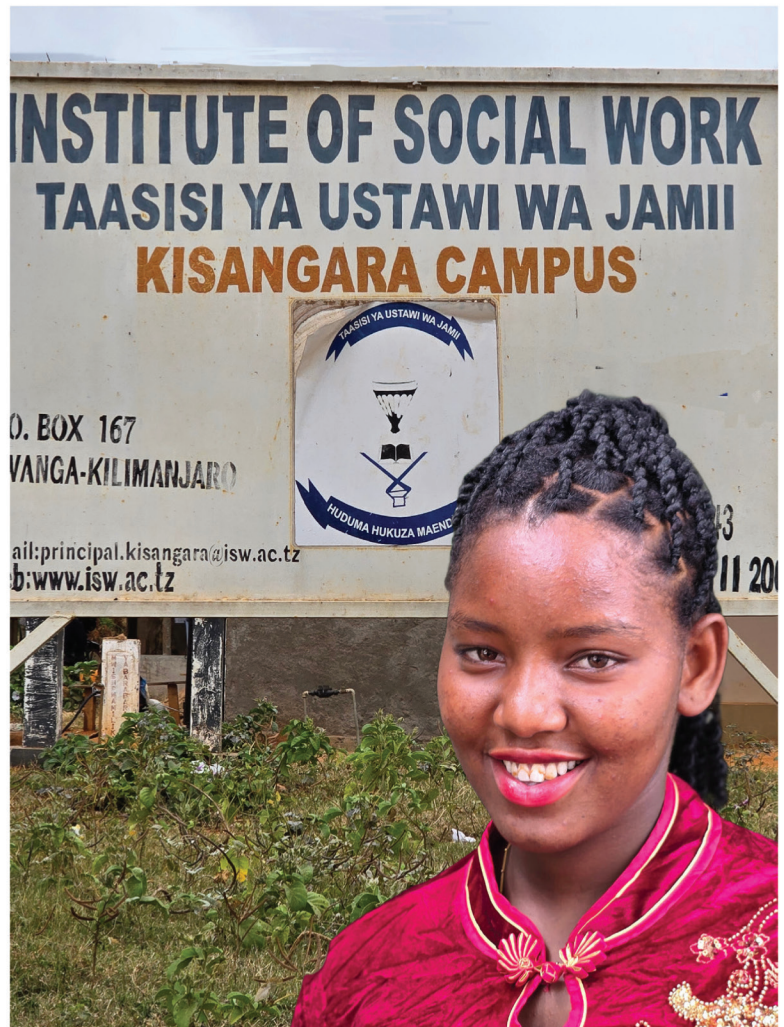
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**Editor's Note:**

Esther has just completed her first year of study at the Institute of Social Work. You can read her dramatic story and how she became a part of the TREASURES OF AFRICA KIDZ family in the May 2024 issue of Victory Magazine which can be found on the Hidden with Christ Ministries website: [www.hiddenwithchrist.org](http://www.hiddenwithchrist.org)

Your tax-deductible donations toward our work in Tanzania will change a child's life forever – just like Esther's. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to the TREASURES OF AFRICA KIDZ PROJECT today! We currently support 62 Tanzanian students – 3 studying in the USA and 59 studying in Tanzania. Please consider helping us pay their school fees to give them hope for the future!

[www.treasuresofafrica.org/donate](http://www.treasuresofafrica.org/donate)



**Esther at College**

# A SPARK OF GENIUS

## *Antoni's Story*



**Antoni surprised his instructors when he transformed a simple plastic car and motorcycle into solar powered motorized vehicles with working headlights!**

how sick he was. Antoni was brought to the orphanage straight from the hospital by social workers from the local Welfare office. Antoni's mother had died 24-hours after bringing her sickly son to the hospital for medical treatment. As it turned out, she was far sicker than her child. With the loss of his father years before, Antoni found himself orphaned overnight.

Antoni's next few years at Treasures of Africa were a journey of restoration. The first order of business was to improve his health and help him gain strength. The orphanage nurse, Jodie, dedicated herself to this goal. Nutrition, vitamins and the necessary medications to rid his body of the multitude of ailments he was battling, were diligently ministered to Antoni. He responded well to both the attention he received along with the excellent medical care.

The plastic toys were held together with black electrical tape and didn't look like much. But when the young student demonstrated his invention – a solar powered car and motorcycle with working lights - his instructors were speechless. Along with other students, the teachers had watched as the vehicles raced across the floor. This boy had a spark of genius they had not recognized. But what they could not have imagined was just how difficult Antoni's early years had been, before he landed at technical school as a teenager.

Antoni was four years old when he arrived at Treasures of Africa Children's Home, in Moshi, Tanzania. His stick-thin arms and legs along with a distended belly betrayed just

Not only did Antoni find nutritious food, a safe place to sleep, and loving care from the orphanage staff at his new home, he also found a friend. Another four-year-old boy came to live at Treasures of Africa a few months after Antoni arrived. His name was Samweli, and they would become lifelong buddies.

As Antoni grew older, his fascination with all things mechanical and electrical, became apparent to the orphanage staff. His penchant for taking things apart, and “trying” to reassemble them, gave more than one headache to the Orphanage Director. But no one could deny where Antoni was headed – toward a career in some technical field.



**Antoni at work helping connect electricity to a remote village in Tanzania**

When it came time for Secondary School Education, Antoni was enrolled in a two-year program in Auto mechanics, followed by a three-year course in Electrical Installation. Though academics were never his strong suit, Antoni managed to pass test after test (to his constant surprise) in addition to excelling in the hands-on practical skills exams.

Graduating from the Vocational Training Program in Electrical Installation was a great victory for Antoni. This was followed by obtaining his official card from the government as a Licensed Electrician. That alone opens many doors for employment in Tanzania since the need for both electricity and competent electricians is widespread in the country.

Currently, Antoni is working on a project bringing electricity to remote villages where there has never been any electrical installation. At 22 years old, Antoni is now able to support himself and thrive, thanks to the 'spark of genius' which God bestowed on him.



**Antoni in March 2007 just after arriving at Treasures of Africa**

***Editor's Note:***

We at Hidden with Christ Ministries are deeply grateful for the generosity of donors to our Treasures of Africa KIDZ Project which has enabled us to care for and educate Antoni and so many other children in Tanzania. Your prayers and gifts have brought Antoni to this amazing point in his life. If you would like to help us educate the many students following in Antoni's footsteps, please consider donating to the TOA KIDZ Education Fund. You can donate on our website:

[www.treasuresofafrica.org](http://www.treasuresofafrica.org)

or scan the QR Code to donate through VENMO or by Credit Card



**Donate by  
Credit Card**

# Reaching the Goal:

# Samweli's Victory

A Story from the  
Treasures of Africa  
KIDZ Project

The growling of his empty stomach drove the four-year-old boy to rise early and search for food scraps in the garbage dump at the edge of the village. Finding food was all he could think about. His mother had died after an extended illness, and he and his six-year-old sister had no one to look to for help besides their mother's 12-year-old sister. But she was as hungry and scared as they were.



**Samweli in his village just  
before he came to live at TOA**

named Antoni, and for years to come, they would stick together like glue.

As time passed, Samweli began school, and it became clear that he was very bright. When he completed Primary School, Samweli was accepted to one of the best Secondary Schools in the country. He excelled there and was chosen by the school administration to serve as the head of the student government.

Someone in the village became aware of the children's desperate plight and notified the Welfare authorities. A social worker arrived one day and drove all three of them to a place where their daily search for food would be over.

At Treasures of Africa Children's Home, Samweli was given a bed with clean sheets and a blanket. He received new clothes to replace the ragged ones he was wearing. The smell of freshly cooked food wafted from the kitchen. The kindness of the strangers who ran the place amazed him. A soccer field with lush green grass beckoned him outside to play. Samweli had never seen such a place in his young life. Was this heaven?

Samweli blossomed overnight. The sudden infusion of nutritious food provided without fail three times each day strengthened his body and encouraged his soul. He felt safe for the first time in his young life. His dynamic personality, which had been hidden under a veil of worry, too great for a child to bear, seemed to develop out of nowhere. He quickly found a friend at TOA, another 4-year-old boy



**Samweli - Nov 2008  
Healthy and happy  
after a year of living  
at Treasures of Africa  
Children's Home**

When asked how his student leadership appointment came to pass, Samweli answered this way: "It is the outcome of something I was trained to do at Treasures of Africa - to be friendly to everyone and to communicate well with others. As a result, the school administration saw that I was kind to the other students and to the teachers and they decided that I was the right person to lead others. Our school motto is 'Be a blessing to others' and they focus on raising leaders who will be a blessing to other people."



**Samweli at Graduation**

After completing Advanced Secondary School, Samweli applied to the Machame Health Training Institute. During his second year at the medical college, Samweli had an experience that would impact him for years to come. As a part of his training, he assisted a doctor in the delivery of a baby. The woman giving birth suddenly went into medical distress. Samweli related that she literally died in his arms. She was not much older than he. This experience shook him deeply. The following day, Samweli was scheduled to share a few words at the Treasures of Africa Annual Christmas Reunion Banquet. He related this tragic story and made an impassioned plea to the audience to cultivate a heart of gratitude to God for every day of life and for all that God has done for them.

Samweli completed his final year at Machame Health Training Institute in July 2025. His graduation was celebrated with a special dinner at a hotel restaurant in Moshi. Though he will have to serve a year of unpaid internship to gain more clinical experience, graduating from medical college is a huge victory! Thanks to God's grace, Samweli's hard work and the generosity of donors to the Treasures of Africa KIDZ project, the little boy from the village has reached a goal few people in Tanzania can claim.

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***Editor's Note:***

You can be a part of changing a child's life forever – just like other generous donors have done for Samweli. If you would like to help us educate the many students following in Samweli's footsteps, please consider donating to the TOA KIDZ Education Fund. You can donate on our website:

[www.treasuresofafrica.org](http://www.treasuresofafrica.org)

or scan the QR Code to donate through VENMO or  
by Credit Card



**Donate by  
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# DID YOU KNOW?

by  
David Langeland

Hidden with Christ Ministries was founded in the year 2000 by Rita Langeland. It was started with the aim of producing a radio program called **KEYS TO VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING**, a program designed to share practical, Bible-based teaching for everyday life. This primary vision of providing practical Bible based teaching remains a constant focus which now includes the list of resources found below – all of which are free of charge and can be accessed on demand from anywhere in the world through the World Wide Web.

**Audio Bible Teachings** - an extensive catalog of recorded bible teachings addressing a variety of topics. There are multipart series and standalone bible studies.

**Bible Teaching Articles** - read online or download for group bible studies.

**The Victory Magazine** - both Current and Previous Issues.

**Faith Articles** - written to strengthen your faith as you walk through life's challenges.

**Video Bible Teachings** - over 755 videos hosted on our YouTube Channel including Word for Wednesday the video devotional by Rita Langeland designed to give you Bible based inspiration and encouragement! Our channel can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@hwcm>.

**The My Everyday Bible APP** - My Everyday Bible is an easy and effective way to listen to the Bible on a daily basis and go through the entire text of the Bible in one year. This APP is free and provides a daily audio broadcast of the Bible being read by author and teacher Rita Langeland of Hidden With Christ Ministries with a devotional message at the end of each daily reading.

**The Bethany Projects website** - Bethany Projects, founded by Dr. Marcia Chang Vogl, joined forces with Hidden with Christ Ministries in 2012 to bring a powerful dimension of personal prayer ministry, teaching and mentoring to the body of Christ. Check out Marcia's teaching resources at <https://bethanyprojects.org>.

Now that you know, we want to encourage you to start using these wonderful resources to grow your faith and to share them with your friends and family. It's easy, just scan the QR codes below and start using the resource of your choice.



HWCM Website



My Everyday Bible  
for iPhone/iPad



My Everyday Bible  
for Android



HWCM YouTube  
Channel



Bethany Projects  
Website

# **A Letter of Gratitude**

*Greetings,*

*Thank you for the article "You Have Stayed Long Enough on this Mountain" written in November 2023.*

*I stumbled onto your website looking for literature to help me with a trait that I found worrying, but God led me to this article to deal with a decision to move from a Ministry that I served since 2021.*

*I am pleasantly amazed!*

*Rita even says:*

*"If you have thoroughly read this article to the end, I believe this is a prophetic exhortation for your life. You have stayed on this mountain long enough...and God is calling you to break camp and move on.*

*Don't hesitate to obey the Lord and end up like the thousands of Israelites who never made it to the Promised Land because they couldn't bring themselves to trust God. The Lord has already planned a way for you to have victory and occupy the new territory He has prepared for you. God is not depending on you to make it happen. The victory is dependent upon God. You must simply trust and obey."*

*I have never received such a clear divine guidance like this in my life! Thank you!*

*Praise be to God Almighty, Who directs our every step!*

*Kind regards,*

*Mehlape*

*South Africa  
June 2025*



*Just a Note...*

# *On Giving*

by  
**Mary Holt**  
Operations Manager  
Hidden with Christ Ministries

Summer is now in full swing, especially here in the Arizona heat! Most children are out of school in America, people are traveling and many of our routine schedules are, well, not very routine.

Meanwhile, our work here at HWCM continues year-round and our TOA KIDZ have begun the second half of their school year. In fact, we just paid a huge batch of school fees for our Primary and Secondary students for the rest of the year. Additionally, we continue with Rehema (Mercy) projects and providing free online biblical resources (My Everyday Bible APP, podcasts), as well as praying in the resources for our two visions – The Treasures of Africa Leadership Academy and the Wildwood Christian Conference Center.

We are extremely grateful for ALL our supporters – whether it's a one-time, periodic or monthly contribution! Thank you!

Many of you have generously supported HWCM every month for many years! Thank you for trusting us with recurring donations, especially those that are automatic. These faithful monthly gifts quite literally undergird our work and keep us moving forward!

Over time, we understand that changes may occur in payment source or method and PayPal may be unable to process the donation. A review of your quarterly HWCM Contribution Statement will reveal if your recurring donations are still active. ***Many have told us over the years that they didn't realize their automatic donations had not continued.***

A quick review of your monthly giving helps ensure it reaches us:

- PayPal never informs us why a recurring donation doesn't go through, which is often due to changes in bank, credit card number, expiration date or billing address. So please make sure your credit card information is current on your PayPal account. If your PayPal account is connected to an old email address you rarely use, you might not receive a notification that your donations aren't going through.
- If you are giving through your bank by using their "AUTO-PAY" system, you can check to see if your donations are still active.
- All checks should be payable to Hidden With Christ Ministries and mailed to PO BOX 745, Forest VA 24551.

We are grateful for every donation we receive and never take a single one for granted! Because we never want to impose pressure on anyone or make assumptions regarding why a donor's giving has changed, ***we don't contact donors when a recurring donation ceases.***

Please know that we pray over every donation received, asking God to bless the giver and return a 100-fold blessing on each donation. We are so grateful to all who have partnered with us to be a blessing to people on the other side of the world! We pray you have a wonderfully blessed summer!

***The generous will themselves be blessed,  
for they share their food with the poor.***

Proverbs 22:9



# You Have Not Passed This Way Before

BY RITA LANGELAND

***Joshua got up early in the morning; then he and all the children of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they spent the night there before they crossed the river. And it happened at the end of three days that the officers went throughout the camp, and they commanded the people, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from where you are and follow it. However, there shall be a distance between you and it of about 2,000 cubits (3,000 ft.) by measurement. Do not come near it, so that you may be able to see the ark and know the way you are to go, for you have not passed this way before."***

Joshua 3:1-4 Amplified Bible

The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, until the death of the entire generation of Israelites that rebelled against Moses' leadership and demanded to return to the bondage of Egypt. That grueling saga was described in great detail in the Book of Exodus. As the Book of Joshua opens, Moses had just died, and Joshua had been appointed by God as Israel's leader with the assignment of guiding the Israelites into the Promised Land.

As they headed toward the Promised Land, the first obstacle the Israelites faced was the Jordan River. By all appearances, that body of water was impassable. The Jordan was at flood stage, overflowing its banks as it always did during harvest season (Joshua 3:15). This caused the normally meandering stream to be transformed into a deep, wide and fast-moving tributary. How were more than a million people with babies, small children, the elderly, along with their livestock and household goods, to cross such a barrier?

You may be facing an obstacle in your life right now that seems equally impassable. All your attempts to eliminate the barrier have been unsuccessful. You need the wisdom of God and a miracle to help you move forward. That is exactly what the Israelites needed. Consider the steps they had to take and how you can apply this biblical template to your own situation.

Joshua prepared the people to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land with some specific instructions which he had received from God. He explained that they had to cross in a very precise manner because they had "***not passed this way before.***" Where God wants to take you in this next season of life - "***you have not passed this way before...***" The methods you have used in the past will not serve you in this situation. So, it will be vital for you to hear and follow God's divine instructions to go where God is trying to take you.

Joshua's first instruction to the Israelites could be simplified down to five words: MOVE ONLY WHEN GOD MOVES! Observe the instructions as they are written in Joshua 3:3 - "***When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then***

***you shall set out from where you are and follow it.*** The key word in that verse is the word ***“then.”*** When you see God move – ***then and only then*** should you move.

The ark of the covenant was a sacred wooden box overlaid with gold with a golden lid that was called the “Mercy Seat.” It represented the presence of God among the people and was placed in the tabernacle while the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. God spoke to Moses about the ark of the covenant stating, ***“There I will meet with you...and I will speak to you.”*** (Exodus 25:22) So when the Lord told the Israelites not to move until they saw the ark of the covenant move – He was referring to His own presence and His own timing.

Many believers run ahead of God because they feel desperate to change their situation. Others rush forward out of enthusiasm because they feel confident about God’s direction for their life and want to “make it happen.” Both scenarios can end in disaster if you are not in sync with God’s timing.

Joshua’s second instruction was for the people to place themselves in a position where they could keep their eyes on the Lord. In Joshua 3:4 – (again referring to the ark of the covenant) ***“...there shall be a distance between you and it of about 2,000 cubits (3,000 ft.) by measurement. Do not come near it, so that you may [be able to see the ark and] know the way you are to go...”*** (Amplified Bible)

This instruction to remain the equivalent of three football fields back from the ark of the covenant wasn’t to keep people far from God – but instead to make sure the ark was visible to the crowds so they could follow where it was going. Have you ever been in the middle of a massive crowd trying to exit a football stadium with 50,000 other people all moving in the same direction? If you got separated from the group you were with, it would be hard to keep your eyes on them as they got swallowed up in that moving mass of humanity. But if that group was separated from the huge crowd by a good distance and were all wearing matching clothes (like the priestly garments worn by the priests) it would be easy to spot them and follow the direction in which they are headed. So here is the directional equivalent for our lives – Place yourself in such a position to keep your eyes on the Lord and don’t allow yourself to be distracted by other people or circumstances!

Joshua’s third instruction came with a wonderful promise! ***“Then Joshua said to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.’”*** (Joshua 3:5) The Israelites needed a supernatural wonder to be performed in order to cross that impassable barrier of the Jordan River. God promised them they would see the miraculous intervention they needed ***IF*** they would consecrate themselves to the Lord. That word “consecrate” means to “set apart as sacred, to dedicate or devote oneself, or to be holy. The Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary indicates the meaning to be “...to set aside for God’s use.” If the people of Israel were willing (and if you are willing) to fully dedicate their lives for God’s purpose, then God was willing to answer that dedication/consecration with a wonder! This is a key to receiving the miraculous in your life. Are you fully dedicated to living for God and not yourself?

Joshua’s fourth instruction was directed at the priests who were at the front of the procession carrying the ark of the covenant on their shoulders. This instruction required them to be willing to walk by faith (and not by sight) - obeying God and waiting patiently for His promise BEFORE THEY SAW IT MANIFESTED - Joshua 3:8, 13 – ***“You shall, moreover, command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’”*** ***“It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap.”***

This was probably the most spiritually challenging moment of the whole story. These men could not swim and they were being required by God to step into a fast-flowing river and “rest” until

God's promise to cut off the waters somewhere upstream, came to pass. Had they hesitated out of fear and chose not to obey that instruction, they would never have experienced the wonder they were about to witness. Also, consider the fact that they did not see the water recede immediately upon their obedient steps into the river, because the place God cut off the flow was at a town called Adam, some 32 kilometers upstream. Don't get discouraged if you do not see the miracle you need occur the moment you obey God! In this case, God intervened immediately when they obeyed but they didn't see the result with their eyes right away. If the river was flowing at the speed of 10 kilometers per hour, it would take over 3 hours for the water that was cut off at the town of Adam to flow past the place the Israelites were planning to cross.

***"As soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the ark touched the water at the river's edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam."*** (Joshua 3:15-16)

It took faith for those priests to remain standing in the river until the flowing water finally abated and they were left with a dry riverbed to walk across. Remember that God's promise was that when the soles of the feet of the priests rested in the Jordan, that was when He would cut off the flow of the river. They had to "rest" by faith in the middle of the very obstacle that opposed their progress toward the Promised Land. Can you do the same? If you are facing an obstacle right now - can you rest in the Lord believing He will do the wonder you need to get to the other side? If you are fretting and fearing and complaining and questioning if God loves you or has forgotten you - you are not resting in faith. And the miracle you need will not manifest until you are able to rest in faith in God's promises.

How did that "wonder" which allowed the Israelites to cross the Jordan River occur? One theory is that an earthquake shook loose dirt cliffs upriver, damming the river long enough for the Israelites to cross. Historical records in Israel documented a landslide which occurred in 1927 when the high dirt cliffs along the Jordan River opposite the town of Adam, collapsed during an earthquake. That landslide dammed the river for 21 hours. God used an earthquake in the book of Acts to break open the jail cell where the apostle Paul and Silas were imprisoned. (Acts 16:25-34) God has a way to remove the obstacle you are facing so that He can take you somewhere you have never gone before.

God's desire for your life is not to leave you as you are - stuck in the same place until you die. He wants to take you somewhere you have never passed before, and He wants you to be VICTORIOUS in it - seeing HIS WONDERS in the process. Are you ready and willing to do all He has commanded?

- 1) **MOVE ONLY WHEN GOD MOVES** (DON'T RUN AHEAD OR LAG BEHIND)
- 2) **KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE LORD** (DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BECOME DISTRACTED BY PEOPLE OR CIRCUMSTANCES)
- 3) **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE FOR GOD'S PURPOSE** (THEN GOD CAN DO WONDERS ON YOUR BEHALF!!)
- 4) **BE READY AND WILLING TO WALK BY FAITH** (EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE A WAY THROUGH THE OBSTACLES)

*Pray this prayer of dedication: Father God, I want to go where You want me to go. I ask You to give me wisdom, grace and courage to move forward in Your perfect timing. Help me to resist the distractions which try to take my eyes away from You. I commit (or recommit) my life to You to do Your will and follow Your purposes for my life. Help me to walk by faith, trusting in Your promises and resting in Your goodness. Thank you for doing wonders on my behalf to take me places I have not passed before! In Jesus' name I pray!*

Set your affection on things above,  
not on things on earth.  
For you are dead, and your life is  
hidden with Christ in God.  
When Christ who is our life  
shall appear, then you also  
shall appear with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:2 - 4 MEV